

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An inflatable cuff for blood pressure measurement, comprising:

a first inflatable bag ~~which is inflatable to press an arterial vessel of a body portion of a living subject and stop flow of blood in the arterial vessel which the inflatable cuff is adapted to be wound around the body portion~~ adapted to be wound around a body portion of a living subject and inflatable to press an arterial vessel of the body portion and to stop flow of blood in the arterial vessel;

a second inflatable bag for sensing a pulse wave propagating along the arterial vessel, the second inflatable bag is supported by the inflatable cuff such that the second inflatable bag is located inside a downstream-side portion of the first inflatable bag as seen in the direction in which the blood flows in the arterial vessel, and which has a dimension as measured in said direction that is smaller than a dimension of the first inflatable bag as measured in said direction; ~~and~~

a fluid-filled bag ~~that~~ which is adapted to be located between the second inflatable bag and the body portion and ~~which is filled with incompressible fluid.~~ fluid; and

a shield plate that is located between the first inflatable bag and the second inflatable bag.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the incompressible fluid is a liquid.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the incompressible fluid is a gel.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fluid-filled bag has a size and is located such that the fluid-filled bag is present in a whole space between the second inflatable bag and the body portion of the living subject in a state that the inflatable cuff is wound around the body portion.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the incompressible fluid is a liquid.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the incompressible fluid is a gel.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fluid-filled bag has a size and is located such that the second inflatable bag and the fluid-filled bag are overlapped in a state that the inflatable cuff is wound around the body portion.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the incompressible fluid is a liquid.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the incompressible fluid is a gel.

10. (New) An inflatable cuff for blood pressure measurement, comprising:
a first inflatable bag to be wound around a body portion of a living subject and inflatable to press an arterial vessel of the body portion and to stop flow of blood in the arterial vessel;

a second inflatable bag for sensing a pulse wave propagating along the arterial vessel, the second inflatable bag is supported by the inflatable cuff such that the second inflatable bag is located inside a downstream-side portion of the first inflatable bag as seen in the direction in which the blood flows in the arterial vessel, and which has a dimension as measured in said direction that is smaller than a dimension of the first inflatable bag as measured in said direction;

a fluid-filled bag that is adapted to be located between the second inflatable bag and the body portion and is filled with incompressible fluid; and

a shield plate that is located between the first inflatable bag and the second inflatable bag, the shield plate overlapping only a portion of the first inflatable bag.

11. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second inflatable bag, the fluid-filled bag and the shield plate are fixed together.

12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second inflatable bag, the fluid-filled bag and the shield plate are sewn together.

13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a dividing member between the first inflatable bag and the shield plate.

14. (New) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the diving member divides an internal space of the inflatable cuff into a first internal space and a second internal space.

15. (New) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first inflatable bag is housed in the first internal space and the second inflatable bag, the shield plate and the fluid-filled bag are housed in the second internal space.